

NAZIS NEAR DISASTER IN RUSSIA

Yanks' Guns Smash Nazi Tanks In Italy

FIVE RAILROAD UNIONS TO CALL STRIKE POLL

Fuel And Transportation Services Threatened By Spreading Strikes

By The Associated Press

Chiefs of the five railroad operating unions voted today to conduct a strike poll among their 500,000 members and the United Mine Workers, asked by the Labor Board to explain why the board's order for the return to work of 20,000 idle Alabama coal miners has not been heeded, replied that union leaders had been making every effort to get the men back to work.

The action of the railroad unions was taken at a joint meeting of the general chairmen of the five organizations after the leaders had voiced dissatisfaction with a proposed wage increase of four cents an hour. They had demanded a hike of 30 percent.

Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the UMW, told the board that John L. Lewis had urged the miners to return to the pits, local unions had voted back-work movements and district officials had made personal appeals to many of the idle.

Kennedy appeared as principal spokesman for the UMW in the presence of President Lewis, ill at St. Alexandria, Va., home.

The Alabama work stoppage began Oct. 13 after the government turned control of mines to the operators. Since then wildcat strikes have spread to other coal states. Each case the idleness was attributed to a theme of "no contract, no work."

The WLB concluded hearings yesterday on a proposed contract and is expected to make known its decision within a few days.

The four-cent-an-hour for the railroad brotherhoods pay boost suggested last month by an emergency board, but spokesmen for the unions termed it an "inflation."

Wildcat coal strikes spread yesterday to Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kentucky, where 4,000 more miners walked out. The total of idle included 20,000 in Alabama, 3,000 in Indiana, 7,700 in Kentucky, 1,650 in Ohio, 1,200 in Pennsylvania, 1,400 in Illinois and 100 in Arkansas.

Alabama miners started the current walkout October 13. The War Labor Board has directed them to return to work. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, also has urged them to go back to the pits.

The WLB concluded hearings yesterday on a proposed new contract for the Illinois soft coal fields which the workers hold out as a possible model for the whole industry. A decision is expected in a few days.

Officials of the United Mine Workers were ordered to appear before the WLB today and explain why their men are still out, despite orders from the board.

President Has Grippe, White House Reports

Washington, Oct. 23—(AP)—The White House said today that President Roosevelt has a case of cold with one degree of fever. Secretary Stephen Early said the president's physician, Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Navy medical general, had ordered the president to remain in his room today and to cancel all appointments.

President was reported yesterday to be suffering from a cold with some body aches, but no temperature.

DT Man To Aid Truckers, Farmers Here

Representative of the Office of Transportation will be in Salisbury Monday as assistant to the county agent in handling problems.

He will be at the Chamber of Commerce from 8:45 a. m. to 10:15 a. m. Monday only.

After Bus Hit Two Stray Mules



Photo shows overturned Greyhound Lines bus after it had been moved from Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way near Eden following collision early Thursday morning with two stray mules. Thirteen persons were injured in the accident, two of which are still in Peninsula General Hospital.

JUDGE JOHNSON RITES SUNDAY

Services To Be Held At 3 P. M. Here

The body of Benjamin A. Johnson, former chief judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland, will lie in state at his home, South Division street, tonight and until noon tomorrow before funeral services to be held at 3 o'clock at Hill and Johnson's Funeral Home.

Dr. Hamilton P. Fox, pastor of Asbury Methodist Church, will officiate assisted by the Rev. H. Claude Ker, Delmar. Burial will be in Parsons Cemetery.

Judge Johnson, also a member of the Maryland Court of Appeals died at his home on South Division street yesterday afternoon after a long illness. He was 55.

Six pallbearers were selected as follows: S. Franklin Woodcock, Oscar Davis, Edgar Harvey, and J. William Slemmons, all of Salisbury; Maurice Ogile, Annapolis, and Judge Neal Parks, Westminster.

Man Fined \$25 Here For Assaulting Woman

Oliver "Pete" Wheaton, Maryland avenue and Light street, was fined \$25 and cost this morning by Peoples Court Judge E. Sheldon Jones for assaulting and beating Anne Truitt, Camden avenue.

Miss Truitt testified that Wheaton struck her on the night of October 13, at the Fairfax Grill, Delmar Road.

"Dot, Pete's wife, asked me to go in the rest room with her and two other girls. I went in and Pete came in after us, then invited his wife to beat me and she wouldn't, so he said he would," said Miss Truitt. "He hit me in the forehead and one of my front teeth is loose."

Wheaton's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Wheaton, testified she was sitting in a booth and could see every move that Wheaton made. "He did not leave the bar," said Mrs. Wheaton. He also denied the charge.

Miss Truitt testified that when she was summoned to appear in court last Thursday, Clifford Duffy, Mack Malone and Tom Bailey, tried in every way to persuade her to not place a charge. She said they told her "if she appeared it would be hard for Wheaton."

British Cruiser Sunk In Channel, Nazis Say

London, Oct. 23—(AP)—A British cruiser was sunk and a destroyer set afire in a clash with light German naval formations near the Channel Islands off the French Coast last night, German broadcasts asserted today.

The German claim said the cruiser was hit by three to four torpedoes and blew up. The German craft was escorting a convoy through the channel when they were sighted by the British. The British sent two destroyers 60 miles southwest of the Channel Islands the broadcast said.

Postmaster Suggests Mailing Christmas Gifts In November

Postmaster Maude R. Toulson today suggested mailing Christmas gift packages in November to insure delivery before the holidays as the Salisbury postoffice faced the Yule season with a shortage of experienced clerks and national mail transportation facilities promised to be clogged during December.

"There can be no assurance, in view of the unavoidable handicaps of war, that gifts and cards mailed in the weeks immediately preceding Christmas will be delivered on time," Mrs. Toulson said.

"Transportation facilities are heavily burdened and the number of railway cars and airplanes available for handling Christmas mail is far below that of former years," she added.

30,000 In Service

Mrs. Toulson pointed out that more than 30,000 employees of the nation's postal service have entered the armed forces and during the holiday season it will be necessary to engage 200,000 temporary and inexperienced workers.

In the Salisbury postoffice alone 15 of 23 regular clerks and carriers are serving in the armed forces and to bolster the regular working force at Christmas, Mrs. Toulson plans to hire Wicomico High School and State Teachers College students, both boys and girls.

All packages mailed for Christmas delivery in November should be marked "Do Not Open Until Christmas" and special care should be taken in addressing these with an eye to the correct zone number used in many larger cities, Mrs. Toulson said.

Persons planning to mail gift packages to Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Navy personnel were reminded that the deadline on these parcels is November 1. Overseas packages must conform to regulations similar to those in effect for Army mailing which closed October 15.

Move To Strip McNutt Of Authority Under Way

Washington, Oct. 23—(AP)—A congressional move to strip Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt of all authority over administration of the Selective Service System was disclosed today with formal publication by the House military committee of its explanation of a new legislation on draft determinations.

The committee, by a vote reported as unanimous, wrote into a bill already passed by the Senate a section directing the President to delegate to the director of Selective Service all the authority he was given under the original law. This would bypass McNutt, the manpower chief, who supervises Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the director of Selective Service.

The new legislation is slated for House action next week. It would strengthen the Selective Service director's authority on appeals and would nullify McNutt's recent order listing certain occupations as non-deferrable, regardless of whether the employee has dependents.

Behind the move, committee members said, was a determination to centralize administration of the Selective Service System and place full authority in the hands of General Hershey.

The legislation, committee members said, would assure deferments of fathers until all available non-fathers have been put into uniform.

BRITISH LOSE 44 BOMBERS IN RAID ON KASSEL

German War, Industrial Center Protected By Nazi Fighters

London, Oct. 23—(AP)—A great force of RAF heavy bombers fought their way through many Nazi fighters last night to deliver a concentrated attack on the German war and industrial center of Kassel in the ninth—and costliest—major British raid of the month.

Forty-four heavy bombers failed to return from the mission, but the four-engined planes fought back stubbornly, sending "several" fighters hurling from the dark skies.

A smaller force of heavy planes struck at the same time at Frankfurt, making it the second raid in 18 days on that industrial center, and Mosquitos rounded out the night's bombing attacks with an assault on the Cologne area.

As the heavy bombers again added their terrific punches at German industry to the day and night attacks that American and RAF lighter planes have been conducting against Nazi communications and fighter fields, German raiders stabbed at London for the seventh successive night, dropping a few bombs.

Berlin Increases Figure

Not since an RAF armada hit Berlin on the last night in August had British bomber losses been so severe. Forty-seven aircraft failed to return from that raid. The Berlin radio increased the figure of last night's British losses to 48 shot down over southwest Germany.

The lesser attack on Frankfurt, more than 400 miles from Berlin was the 39th of the war on that big automotive, rail and rubber center.

While the official report mentioned that bad weather was encountered during the 400-mile roundtrip to Kassel it said that visibility was good over the target and that first reports indicated the explosives had been concentrated indicating that the RAF probably had equalled or even exceeded the 50 tons of bombs a minute dropped during the last Kassel raid on Oct. 10.

Key Aircraft Town

Kassel which is 100 miles north-east of Cologne is one of Germany's key aircraft towns and also the site of Henschel locomotive works, largest of its kind in Europe. The city has a big assembly works for Messerschmitt 109's.

Almost every type of daylight craft, except Fortress and Liberator, went back and forth across the channel yesterday in a speeded up aerial offensive led by American Marauders which blasted the Nazi airdrome at Evreux Fauville near Paris and returned without mishap.

MOUNTING MUNITIONS

Next year, 1944, is expected to produce munitions to the tune of \$75,000,000,000.

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U. S. ARTILLERY STOPS GERMAN ARMORED FORCE

Tanks Are Knocked Out As Fifth Army Moves Ahead

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Oct. 23—(AP)—American artillery—the "queen of the battle"—from Africa through Sicily—crushed a Nazi counter-attack at Alifan on the Fifth Army's right wing in Italy yesterday, knocking out "a number of tanks," and in the central sector Fifth Army troops have seized commanding heights, it was announced today.

This was the first appearance of German tanks in any number in some time, but Field Marshal Gen. Albert Kesselring's counter-attack failed as did a similar effort on the Eighth Army front near Montecellone.

The Germans, now firmly entrenched in their new mountain positions, launched a series of counter-attacks designed to throw the Fifth and Eighth Armies off balance. Allied troops not only beat off every attack, but Eighth Army forces advanced two miles to take Lupara, which controls high ground in central Italy.

In sea actions, small units of the American and British Navies, including U. S. patrol torpedo boats, sank, captured or damaged five Nazi-controlled vessels. The torpedo boats darted far up the north-west coast of Italy near Leghorn from new bases in the Mediterranean to make their raid.

In the air, Allied bomber fleets continued their Balkan campaign, bombing the Nazi airdrome at Elevis near Athens.

British troops occupied Lupara, nine miles southwest of Lario, and beat off an enemy counter-attack upon Montecellone.

The swift torpedo boats, making their first announced foray into the waters off the neck of Italy, intercepted German convoys Tuesday and Wednesday night in the Leghorn area, a naval communiqué said. Leghorn is 156 airline miles above Rome on the west coast.

Charging in Tuesday night upon a northbound convoy consisting of a small tanker, an "F" lighter and three "R" boats, the torpedo boat scored a hit on the lighter and possibly on the tanker. Retaliatory fire from the convoy was "inaccurate and they eventually engaged each other," a communiqué said.

The next night, three torpedo boats intercepted a southbound convoy of three "F" lighters and four small escorts, torpedoing one of the lighters. The American craft escaped without damage or casualties.

Yugoslav Patriots Hit Nazi Strong Points

London, Oct. 23—(AP)—Yugoslav patriots struck hard at German fortified strong points in southwest Slovenia today as Adolf Hitler sought some means of liquidating increasing unrest throughout the Balkans.

Hitler's concern over the Balkan situation was indicated when he summoned the regents of Bulgaria to a conference of high German military officers last Monday. The Berlin radio announced the meeting last night.

Berlin said that Prince Cyril, younger brother of the late King Boris and Bogdan Philov, Cyril's pro-Nazi co-Egent attended the session.

Capture of the strategic Slovenian centers of Kopriva, Vinsnyrvh, Novi Grad and Gradisce, was reported by a communiqué of the Yugoslav Liberation Army, broadcast by the free Yugoslav radio and recorded by the Associated Press. While little more than villages, these positions were regarded as important because they command lines of communication in a difficult mountainous area.

Heavy fighting was also reported in the vicinity of Mount Chakor on the Monnegran-Albanian frontier between Partisan columns.

1,500,000 Germans Face Encirclement

Moscow, Oct. 23—(AP)—The Red Army, speeding up its marathon offensive and attacking violently in many sectors, was throwing the Germans back scores of miles today in the face of very heavy counter-attacks.

There were signs from several areas—particularly south east of Kremenchug in the Dnieper elbow, both north and south of Melitopol where the Russians are fashioning the southern arm of a clamp, and southeast of Kiev at the Pereyaslav bridgehead—that the German command was unable to halt breakthroughs.

Moscow Expects Celebration

Moscow is expecting to be able to hold a Saturday night celebration of another Russian victory—the fall of Melitopol, ravaged by many days of as fierce street fighting as has occurred anywhere.

(London dispatches said possibly 1,500,000 Germans were threatened with entrapment in the Dnieper bend, in the Crimea and around Kiev and Gomel.)

London, Oct. 23—(AP)—The fleeing hordes of Adolf Hitler, outsmarted and cut to pieces by smashing Soviet forces along almost the entire eastern front, are in imminent peril of suffering their biggest disaster since the Red Army launched its sweeping summer offensive.

The Nazis' lengthy retreat to the Dnieper River defense line was made with not too great a loss and in a rather orderly fashion, in the opinion of London military observers, but the Germans now face annihilation at the hands of the Red Army in the trap at the Dnieper bend, at outflanked Kiev and Gomel, and blow the Dnieper elbow and in the Crimea when Melitopol falls.

Heretofore by the use of fresh troops; masses of artillery and heavy units of tanks and bombers the Nazis generally have succeeded in slowing down the Soviets after a major breakthrough, but today the German line, although similarly reinforced, appeared to be crumbling.

War Of Attrition

This is the first time that the Germans have had a real war of attrition practised on them over a long front, and Marshal Joseph Stalin as the master Russian strategist appeared to have them groggy.

At present the Red Army is striking first in this sector and then another, straining the already thin line of German communications to shift men and material to meet the sudden attacks.

Early in the week the Germans' main task seemed to be to halt at any cost Red Army's major breakthrough in Dnieper bend.

When the Germans shifted troops from the Crimea to meet this threat, the Russians next attacked south of Pereyaslav where it looks as if they had scored another important breakthrough.

The Russians are driving hard in the direction of the important iron ore city of Krivoi Rog, and are within 15 miles of that objective inside the Dnieper elbow.

Other Soviet units branching out to the northwest have reached to within 16 miles of Znamenska, rail crossing on vital lines from Kiev to the Crimea and the Black Sea port of Nikolayev.

Attack At Other End

At the other end of the more than 50-mile wedge which the Russians have driven within the river's bend, Red Star said the Russians were attacking an important enemy position protecting Dnepropetrovsk, and had closed to within 31 miles of the rear of the big metallurgical center of Dnepropetrovsk at the river bend.

The newest Russian successes cut the railway between Dnepropetrovsk and Krivoi Rog, and the Germans have only one line out of Dnepropetrovsk, that which runs to Nikolayev through Kozlovsk.

According to estimates based on (Continued on Page 2)

FIRE DAMAGES MARKET

Baltimore, Oct. 23—(AP)—A four-alarm fire damaged the Hollins market early today, burning off the roof of a section occupied almost entirely by dealers.

The dealers operated as usual, but without a roof and using candles as substitutes for electric lights.

Dodecanese Island Seized By Germans

London, Oct. 23—(AP)—A Berlin broadcast by the German International Information Bureau, a propaganda agency, said today that Nazi troops had occupied Antypalea (Stampalia) island in the western part of the Dodecanese group.

The broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press, said "numerous" German prisoners were freed.

Senator Tydings To Speak At Fellowship Hall Monday

Senator Millard E. Tydings will be the principal speaker at the annual Farmers' Night banquet of the Salisbury Kiwanis Club here Monday night. The senator's speech will be broadcast by radio station WBOC.

Farmers of Wicomico county have been invited and directors of the county Farm Bureau will attend in a body.

Edgar L. Williams is chairman of the banquet committee and C. C. Phillips, chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Members of the Lions and Rotary Clubs and city officials will be guests of the Kiwanis Club. From 8 p. m. to 8:45 p. m. Senator Tydings' speech will be broadcast over radio station WBOC from the banquet table in Fellowship Hall.



Senator Tydings